

Panhandle Region

Wolves found north of I-90 in this region are part of the NWMT Recovery Area and are classified as endangered. Wolves south of I-90 along the southern boundary of this region are within the CID recovery area and are classified as nonessential experimental animals.

There were 4 documented resident, 1 documented border, and 2 suspected border packs in the Panhandle Region in 2005 (Figure 6; Table 2). Four of the 5 documented packs (Avery, Calder Mountain, Fishhook, and Five Lakes Butte) produced litters and qualified as breeding pairs. Calder Mountain, the single documented border pack for this region shared time between Idaho and Montana, and was counted as an Idaho pack. The 2 suspected border packs for this region, Superior and De Borgia, counted as Montana packs for federal recovery purposes.

No wolf-livestock conflicts were reported in this region and no livestock or dogs (herding/guarding or hunting) were reported killed by wolves in 2005.

Documented Resident Packs

Avery

Two wolves were radio collared in this newly documented pack in mid-June 2005; subadult female B233 and suspected alpha male B234. Wolf sign was observed in this general area in 2004 but biologists were unable to verify pack status or whether reproduction had occurred. Two pups were seen in the vicinity of the den/rendezvous site in 2005. Though few aerial locations were gathered, this pack appeared to range from the St. Joe River north almost to I-90. The Avery pack was a first-year pack with an estimated pack size of 4 wolves. The Avery pack was counted as a breeding pair for 2005.



Photo Carter Niemeyer

IDFG Officer Mark Bowen, Biologist Dave Spicer, and Officer Josh Stanley handling wolf B234 of the Avery pack.

the Marble Mountain pack who then established a new territory. This newly documented pack was counted as a breeding pair for 2005.

Fishhook

This first-year pack was documented by monitoring the movements of female wolf B217 from the Marble Mountain pack. Many of B217's aerial locations were in the area south of Roundtop Mountain, the eastern portion of the Marble Mountain pack's usual home range. A field investigation in late July 2005 verified at least 2 pups and 3 adults based on howling, while B217 was present. It was suspected that the Fishhook pack may have formed through the splitting of some members of

Five Lakes Butte

Two gray pups were observed, and possibly a third heard howling, in the Vanderbilt Gulch drainage in mid-July. Adult females B212 and B213 remained with the pack after their captures in 2004, though B213 was not located after September 2005. B213's last location was just on the Idaho side of the border with Montana. Field observations indicated a minimum of 5-6 wolves in this pack. The Five Lakes Butte pack was counted as a breeding pair for 2005.

Marble Mountain

Presence of pups was suspected, but was not verified, with the Marble Mountain pack in 2005. Adult male B216 was not aerially located from April through August, while female B217 (see Fishhook) was consistently located near Roundtop Mountain. A field investigation of a previously known Marble Mountain pack rendezvous site provided evidence that pups may have been in the area. At this time, B216's radio signal was detected near where this possible pup sign was found. The distance between where pups were documented for the Fishhook pack (B217) and where potential pup sign was found in the Marble Mountain pack home range (B216) was suspected too great to be from the same animals. However, because pup activity with adults was not verified but only suspected, the Marble Mountain pack was not considered a breeding pair for 2005.

Documented Border Packs

Calder Mountain (ID)

Based on reports from the public indicating wolf activity, biologists from Idaho and Montana investigated this area in July 2005. By conducting howling surveys in the area, biologists were able to locate a rendezvous site where a minimum of 2 adults and 2 pups was verified. A wolf pup was captured, but was too small to radio collar, so this pack remained without radio collars. Based on field investigations and public reports, this newly documented pack was considered a border pack between Idaho and Montana, and was counted as an Idaho breeding pair for 2005.

Suspected Border Packs

De Borgia (MT)

De Borgia was a suspected group consisting of as many as 6 wolves. Initial reports of wolf activity in this area were first received by Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MTFWP) during the 2005 big game hunting season in drainages south of De Borgia, Montana. No field investigations were made. This suspected pack is considered a border pack between Idaho and Montana.

Superior (MT)

Superior was a suspected pack that was documented by MTFWP and WS. A colt was confirmed injured in this area in June 2005. There was consistent sign of at least 2 wolves holding a territory south of Superior, Montana, although there could be more wolves present.

2005 Panhandle Region Wolf Activity Telemetry, Documented and Suspected Locations

Telemetry and Research-based Territory (2004-05)*

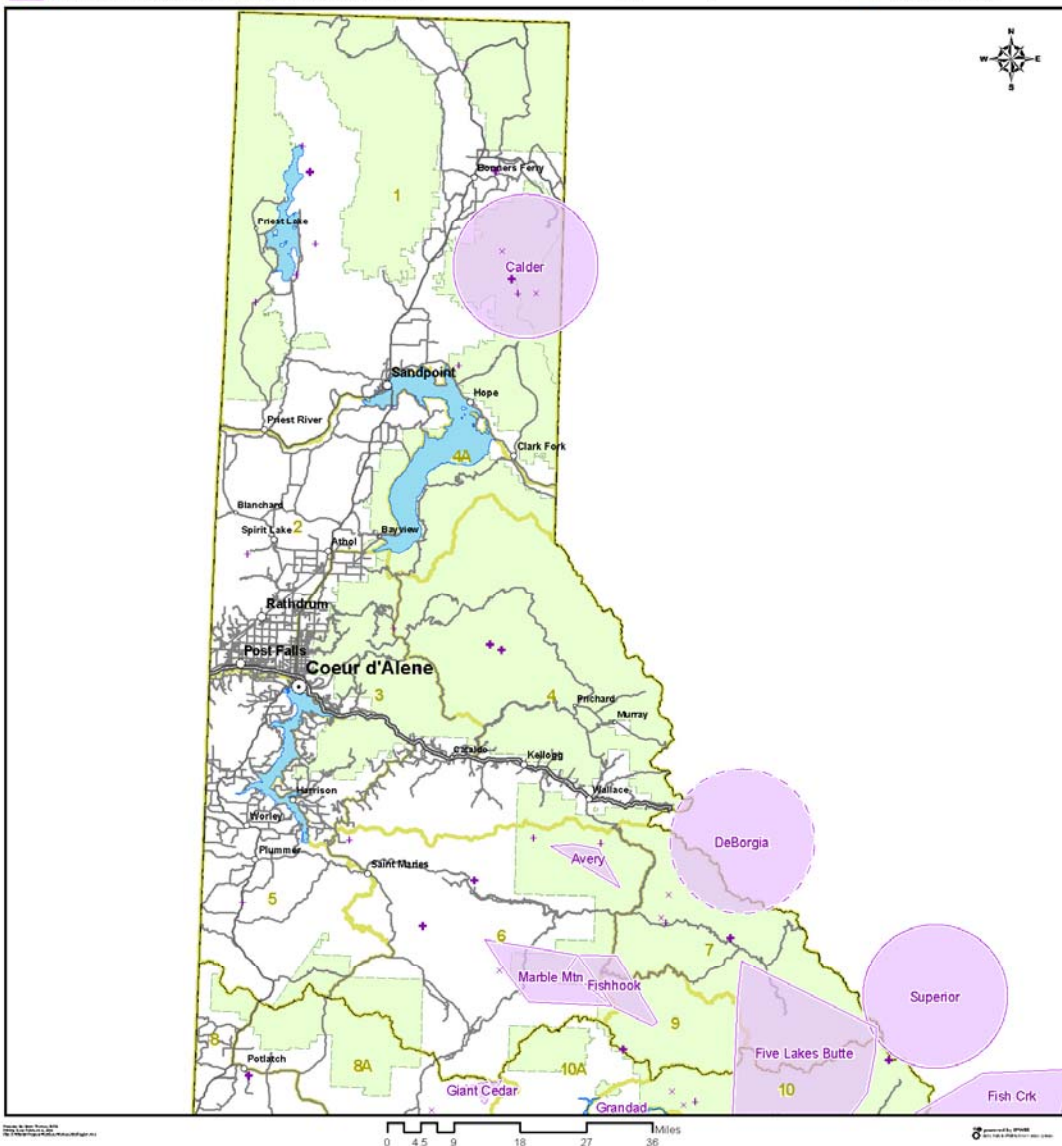
- Documented Pack
- Suspected Pack
- Documented Wolf Activity (Pair or Group less than 5 animals)

Estimated Pack Activity (2004-05)**

- Documented Pack
- Suspected Pack
- Documented Wolf Activity (Pair or Group less than 5 animals)

Public Observations (2005)***

- Not Specified
- Single Animal
- Multiple Animals



* Telemetry data and research locations collected and analyzed by Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Nez Perce Tribe, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the National Park Service. Pack territories are minimum convex polygons of telemetry locations and research observations for radio-collared wolves from 1/1/2004 - 12/31/2005 with outliers removed. Packs which no longer existed in 2005 are excluded. This map is provided for management purposes and should not be used for data analysis. Do not release these data to third parties without first contacting the Idaho Department of Fish and Game or the Nez Perce Tribe.

** Estimated Pack Activity determined by biologists from research locations, public observations and incidental observations from 1/1/2004 - 12/31/2005.

*** Public Observations from 1/1/2005 - 12/31/2005 collected on the Idaho Fish and Game website and reviewed by staff biologists.

Map Produced by Idaho Fish and Wildlife Information System, Idaho Fish and Game in cooperation with: The Nez Perce Tribe, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and the National Park Service

Figure 6. Wolf pack activity and observations in the Panhandle Region, 2005.

Table 2. Estimated pack size, reproductive status, mortality, dispersal, monitoring status, and livestock depredation for documented and suspected wolf packs within Idaho Department of Fish and Game Panhandle Region, 2005.

Wolf pack or group	Min. no. wolves observed ^a	Reproductive status			Documented & suspected mortalities					Monitoring status			Confirmed & probable wolf- caused livestock losses		
		Min. no. pups prod.	Reprod. packs	Breeding pairs ^b	Natural	Control ^c	Other human ^d	Unknown ^e	Known dispersal	Active radio collars	Number wolves captured ^f	Number wolves missing ^g	Cattle	Sheep	Dogs
Documented															
Avery	4	2	yes	yes	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
Calder Mountain (ID) ^h	4	2	yes	yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Fishhook	5	2	yes	yes	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Five Lakes Butte	5	2	yes	yes	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Marble Mountain	?	?	?	no	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Suspected															
De Borgia (MT) ^h															
Superior (MT) ^h															
Regional total	18	8			0	0	0	0	1	5	3	0	0	0	0

^a Number of wolves observed by wolf program personnel in 2005. Sum of this column does not equate to number of wolves estimated to be present in the population.

^b Breeding pairs are the measure of Federal and State wolf recovery and management goals. A breeding pair is defined as “an adult male and an adult female wolf that have produced at least 2 pups that survive until December 31 of the year of their birth...”.

^c Includes agency lethal control and legal take.

^d Includes all other human-related deaths.

^e Does not include pups that disappeared before winter.

^f Includes all wolves captured during 2005. Most, but not all, were radio-collared.

^g Radio-collared wolves that became missing in 2005.

^h Border pack officially tallied to (state); territory known or likely shared with Idaho. Data on these packs can be found in Rocky Mountain Wolf Recovery 2005 Interagency Annual Report.